

Rural District of Forehoe and Henstead



THE
Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

(IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.)

together with the

REPORT OF THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector

(G. A. J. BROWNE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.)

1950

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THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.)

FOR THE

Rural District of Forehoe & Henstead

Norfolk

For the Year ended 31st December, 1950.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1950.

The estimated population has increased by 310 and of this number 109 are accounted for by the excess of births over deaths.

WEATHER CONDITIONS.

The main feature of the weather of 1950 was a very wet summer, the maximum monthly rainfall for the year occurring in July. The 1949-50 winter was relatively mild and there was a cold late spring. The wet weather continued into the autumn and the year ended with a very cold December.

The average monthly temperature never rose above 62.3 deg. and the figure for December fell to 33.7 deg.

GENERAL.

Area (in acres)	... ..	69,267
Resident population mid-year 1950		
(as estimated by Registrar General)		22,970
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950)		7,124
Rateable Value (end of 1950)		£82,745
Sum represented by a penny rate		£323

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS:

	Total	Male	Female	Forehoe & Henstead (1950)	England & Wales (1950)	Forehoe & Henstead (1949)
Legitimate	360	188	172			
Illegitimate	22	9	13			
Total	382	197	185	16.6	15.8	14.56

STILL BIRTHS:

	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 Population—		
Legitimate	9	5	4			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
Total	9	5	4	0.39	0.37	0.31

	Total	Male	Female	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population—		
DEATHS:	273	149	124	11.8	11.6	11.69

	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 Births—		
Maternal Mortality:	—	—	—	—	—	5.93

	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 Live Births—		
Infant Mortality:	16	11	5	41.8	29.8	27.3

There were 382 live births during 1950 and 273 deaths from all causes. This gives a birth rate of 16.6 which is much higher than last year (14.56) and above the national rate of 15.8.

The death rate is 11.8 a little above the rate for England and Wales (11.6) and also slightly above the 1949 rate for the District (11.69).

There were 16 deaths of infants under 1 year and 10 of these occurred in the first 4 weeks of life. This gives an Infant Mortality rate of 41.8, which is much higher than in 1949 (27.3) and much above the national figure of 29.8. On analysis, however, the returns shew that the majority of these infants died from unavoidable causes, namely congenital deformities, prematurity and malignant conditions. There was one accidental death from asphyxia and one fatal case of pneumonia. The high mortality rate, therefore, does not suggest any falling off in the standard of infant care.

Comparability factors have been given by the Registrar General in respect of both births and deaths. These factors applied to the district figures give rates which may be compared with those in other areas. These adjusted rates are 18.1 and 9.68 respectively.

Infectious disease accounted for 16 deaths, poliomyelitis (1), tuberculosis (6), and pneumonia (9). Cancer caused 45 deaths compared with 31 in 1949 and

other main causes were heart disease and diseases associated with the circulatory system. There were 8 deaths due to accidents, 3 of them from motor accidents and there were 4 suicides. Male deaths exceeded female deaths by 25.

The causes of death given in the following Table are supplied by the Registrar General:—

CAUSES OF DEATH				Males	Females	Totals
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	5	1	6
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	2	—	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	1	1
Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	5	2	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	6	2	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	12	14	26
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	2	2
Diabetes	...	...	...	2	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	15	13	28
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	14	13	27
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	4	2	6
Other heart diseases	...	...	...	31	27	58
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	8	11	19
Influenza	...	...	...	—	1	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	4	5	9
Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	5	9
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	3	—	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	3	—	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	5	1	6
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	16	12	28
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	1	2	3
All other accidents	...	...	...	3	2	5
Suicide	...	...	...	3	1	4
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—
Totals				149	124	273

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There was a large increase in the number of cases of notifiable infectious disease, 709 cases being notified, compared with 209 last year. The whole of this increase was due to large epidemics of measles (505) and whooping cough (136). Apart from these, infectious disease has been less prevalent than last year.

Measles.

The epidemic which had begun in December 1949 continued into the first quarter of 1950 with a maximum number of cases in February (207). The figures for April were down to 21 and from then onwards only a few cases were notified each month. Most parishes were affected and there was a specially large number of cases at Hingham. Although two-thirds of the cases occurred in the pre-school age groups, no deaths or complications were reported. It is specially remarkable that only 18 infants under the age of one year contracted the disease. This is fortunate as measles is known to be particularly dangerous at this age.

Whooping Cough.

The epidemic of whooping cough started later in the year and the largest number of cases was notified in June (30) and July (34). Slightly above average prevalence continued for the rest of the year. About two-thirds of the cases were children under school age but no complications or deaths were reported. This is very satisfactory considering the exceptionally wet weather which must have kept young children shut up indoors far more than is usual in the summer and added to their risk of contracting pneumonia.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 23 cases of scarlet fever notified during the year, 6 less than in 1949. More than half of the cases were in the 5-10 age group. No complications or deaths were reported.

Diphtheria.

For the first time for some years I have to report a case of diphtheria. This was a married woman who developed an attack of moderate severity and was treated in the Isolation Hospital. Although she had several young children at risk, they had all been recently immunised and none of them contracted the disease. No other cases were found either before or after this one and the source of her infection was never determined. This case demonstrates the great protective value of immunisation.

Infective Hepatitis.

There were only 18 cases of infective hepatitis notified, compared with 29 in 1949. The absence of hot, dry weather may have affected the incidence of this disease.

Poliomyelitis.

There were only 4 cases of poliomyelitis notified during the year, 3 children, aged 11, 7 and $2\frac{1}{2}$ years and one adult male aged 30.

There was one death from polioencephalitis in an 11 year old girl who had a sudden fulminating attack which terminated fatally within a few days of the onset. About 10 days later her neighbour, a man of 30, was taken ill with a very severe attack from which he recovered but which left him with extensive residual paralysis. At the end of the year he was still undergoing hospital treatment but was showing some signs of slow recovery. The connection between these cases seems fairly clear, also the fatigue factor in determining severity, as the second case took ill the day after a very strenuous game of football.

The other two cases occurred sporadically and had no connection with one another or any other known case. Both were mild and made complete recoveries.

The fatal case may have acquired her infection from visitors who were natives of a Midland town where poliomyelitis was exceptionally prevalent.

Food Poisoning.

There were two cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table gives the ages and sex incidence during the year.

Ages	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—15	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	2	2	1	—	—
45—55	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Over 65	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	16	4	2	4	5	1	—	—

Cases on Register at December 31st, 1950.

			Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
Male	...	...	50	27	77
Female	...	...	32	24	56
			82	51	133

There were 133 cases of tuberculosis on the Register at the end of 1950, which is one more than last year. 26 new cases were notified, 20 of these were of the pulmonary type. This is a considerable increase on last year, when only 18 cases were notified. The whole of this increase is accounted for by twice as many male pulmonary cases, half of these being between 25 and 35 and all but one of the others being over 35.

This may not necessarily represent a real increase in the disease as cases are now being discovered at a much earlier stage due to increased facilities for diagnosis. This is a good feature for it means that early treatment can be given and the prospects of a permanent cure increased.

There were only 6 deaths from tuberculosis, 5 male and 1 female, all of the pulmonary type. This is 2 less than in 1949. All the cases were over 35.

Diagnosis.

Better facilities for diagnosis include the mass radiography unit based on Norwich, which has carried out surveys in many of the factories in the city and fringe parishes. It is also available to the general public.

The Chest Clinic at Bowthorpe Road, Norwich, is a diagnostic centre to which doctors can refer doubtful cases and I am assured that full use is made of this service.

The Laboratory is also extensively used by general practitioners and 99 sputum examinations were made during the year. Of these 23 were positive and 19 negative in notified cases, and 57 negative results referred to cases not on the Register. This shews that doctors are constantly thinking of the possibility of tuberculosis in the course of their work.

B. C. G. Vaccination is offered to all susceptible contacts of a diagnosed case.

Treatment.

Less delay was experienced this year in patients awaiting admission to sanatoria. With modern methods of treatment there is a much more rapid turnover of beds and with more early cases being discovered in the curable stage, less beds are taken up by long stay cases.

Tuberculosis is being energetically tackled from all angles and it is hoped that the continued co-operation of all workers will gradually enable us to reduce its ravages to negligible proportions.

From the Council's point of view, the most valuable measure would be the abolition of all domestic overcrowding.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 — 1948.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

The new powers under the above Regulations have been used to restrict the sale of milk from 5 retailers during the year. Three of these Notices were in respect of milk found to be infected with tuberculosis and brucella abortus and two of them with brucella abortus alone. Prompt arrangements were made for the milk to be pasteurised by the Milk Marketing Board prior to retail sale and all five Notices were still in operation at the end of the year.

Notifications of the infected milk were received in the first place from the County Medical Officer as the result of routine bulk sampling by his department, and a close liaison was also maintained with the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries throughout the investigations.

HOUSING.

Waiting List.

No. of applicants at 31-12-49	...	654
No. of applicants at 31-12-50	...	614

Analysis of Waiting List.

Small Unit families	...	456
Large Unit families	...	158

(Small Unit families are those suitable for one or two bedroomed bungalows and consist largely of married couples with one child or two children of the same sex. Large Unit families mainly represent those with more than two children, or two children over eight years of age of opposite sex.)

Agricultural Workers	...	127
Others	...	487

Local Authority Houses—Position at 31-12-50

Pre-War	...	842
Post-War	...	457

Total proposed houses	...	116
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Houses erected during 1950

Permanent	...	116
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Ex-Government Camps—No. of families occupying:—

At 31st December, 1949	...	129
At 31st December, 1950	...	154
Total Huts converted into dwellings at 31-12-50	...	154
Total number of applicants housed in Camps from Waiting List during 1950	...	70

Requisitioned properties

Number of families occupying requisitioned property at 31-12-50	39
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It will be seen that there were 40 less names on the Waiting List at the end of 1950 than at the beginning of the year but that there are still 614 families needing houses.

The analysis shews that the smaller family units greatly exceed the larger and suggests that the problem of the more recently married is still awaiting solution. Only one in five of the applicants is an agricultural worker shewing the considerable degree of priority which has already been given to this occupational group.

In 1950, 116 permanent houses were built and 25 more hutments were converted into living accommodation. Thus 141 families were able to acquire homes of one kind or another during the year.

As there is a limit to the number of huts suitable for conversion, most future progress must be in the direction of permanent houses. Unless the rate of building can be speeded up, it will take 6 years to house the present applicants without counting those who will apply for the first time in succeeding years.

At first sight it would appear reasonable to build smaller two bedroomed houses to economise in materials and expenditure but a word of caution is needed. Families are not static but increase in size and the small unit of 1950 may well become the large unit of 195-? It would be unfortunate if couples had to choose between overcrowding their houses or limiting their families to one or two children. The social effect of this would be wholly unfortunate as the more responsible and the better stock would tend to practise family limitation, while the less responsible would overcrowd their small houses to the detriment of their children's health. It is essential that a fair balance be kept between the larger and the smaller units of accommodation.

The time is coming when the question of over-housing will also have to be faced. Housing is now a social service and in order to make the best use of a commodity in short supply, small units occupying large houses should be expected to exchange them for smaller ones. If this was clearly understood when a family first became Council house tenants, there would be no sense of injustice and space would be used to capacity. An

average family goes through three stages: first a newly married couple, second the large growing family and third, the parents only, when the family has grown up and gone away.

Those who buy or rent houses for themselves do in fact, very often move to fit the size of their family and it seems quite reasonable to expect the Council's tenants to do the same. It is the only scheme which would ensure that there is adequate living space for the family when it is in its greatest need, that is, when the children are in their teens or older and incidentally at the most susceptible age for the onset of tuberculosis.

A more generous allocation of private building licences would also help and I fully endorse the excellent scheme put forward by the Senior Sanitary Inspector for assisting people to build their own homes with their own labour. This is certainly one of the most admirable forms of self-help.

Another aspect of housing which needs to be considered is the bringing up to a reasonable modern standard of the pre-war Council House. The accepted amenities of adequate plumbing, drainage and water supplies, are still lacking in many of the Council's houses and in some of them cooking facilities also urgently need to be modernised.

The family unit is all-important in the national life and its welfare largely depends upon the housewife. She therefore needs the best possible equipment for carrying out this truly vital national service.

WATER SUPPLY.

The most outstanding fact about the water supply in the district was its continuing acute shortage in many places throughout the whole year. The Emergency Water Scheme had to be continued even through the winter months.

Shallow wells are always subject to pollution, and in times of relative drought the danger is increased. High concentrations of nitrates may result from the fall in the water level and the use of such water has been found to be injurious to young infants. Unfortunately, although boiling will sterilise the water it will not reduce its nitrate content, so an alternative supply may have to be found when infants have to be bottle fed.

The only permanent solution of all these difficulties is the rapid extension of piped supplies.

SEWERAGE.

Sewerage schemes for Hingham and Costessey were further considered during the year and it is confidently anticipated that both will be commenced during 1951.

SOCIAL HEALTH.

It is gratifying to report further development in the provision of facilities for recreation and group activities in the district.

Two new village halls were opened during the year and three parishes started projects to provide them.

Two playing fields were opened and nine parishes are trying to acquire them.

Amongst the many activities reported are several Drama Groups, Old Tyme Dancing Classes, Evening Institutes, and an occasional Village Pantomime.

I hope to make a detailed survey next year of the number and types of group activities being carried on. This should give an interesting and informative picture of the way in which the countryman, and country-woman, spend their leisure.

There is no doubt that a full and satisfying community life will do more to keep the younger people in the country than any other incentive. It is hoped that before long every parish will have adequate facilities and that these will be used to capacity.

1950.

VILLAGE HALLS.		PLAYING FIELDS.	
Opened.	Project.	Opened.	Project.
Cringleford	Deopham Newton Flotman	Poringland Little Melton	Barnham Broom Easton Hethersett Hingham Newton Flotman Saxlingham Stoke Holy Cross Swardeston Trowse Newton
Totals 1	2	2	9

GENERAL SURVEY.

The health of the district has been satisfactory during the year.

A large rise in the birth rate, a very small rise in the death rate with few preventable infant deaths are good indications of the health of the community.

The children have weathered large epidemics of measles and whooping cough without permanent damage, showing that their general resistance remains high.

The greatest need is still more houses and the acceleration of schemes for water supply and sewerage.

Conclusion.

In conclusion I should like to express to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of their continued support and to the Council's staff my thanks for their loyal co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Inspections.

The following inspections were made during the year:—

Inspections under Housing Acts	...	322
Inspections under Public Health Acts	...	326
Meat and other Foods Inspections	...	448
Refuse Collection, Night Soil and Cesspool Emptying Service, visits and inspections		764
Moveable dwellings inspections and visits		61
Disinfestations	... ..	9
Inspections of Ice Cream Premises	...	13
Infectious Disease visits	... ..	118
Inspections of Dairies and visits re Cowshed Drainage Schemes	... ..	57
Inspections under Building Bye-laws and Town and Country Planning Act 1947		370
Visits re Petroleum stores	... ..	10
Visits re Water Supplies	... ..	168
Miscellaneous visits and inspections	...	463
Total	...	3129

Water Supply.

The proposed District Water Supply Scheme has made no progress during the year. It will be dependent upon receiving bulk supplies from Norwich Corporation which Authority has as yet been unable to lay the mains in its statutory area of supply and until this is done, bulk supplies for the Council's Scheme will not be available.

An Interim Scheme for supplying water to Newton Flotman and Saxlingham Thorpe, using as Headworks the Council's existing borehole in Newton Flotman, has been prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers and this Scheme will be proceeded with independent of the general Water Supply Scheme but will ultimately join up with it.

Main laying in Hethersett was completed during the year and 19 standpipes have been fitted in the parish as a temporary supply. The water pressure available does not at present allow for many connections to individual properties and until the Wymondham U.D.C. can carry out such improvements at their Headworks as will give additional pressure, a full water supply to all properties in the parish cannot be attained.

The number of dwellinghouses and population receiving a mains water supply is as follows:—

	No. of Houses Supplied.	Estimated Popul'n. Supplied.	Estimated Popul'n. Parishes.	Percentage Popul'n. Supplied.
Caistor St. Edmunds ...	1	4	203	1.97%
Costessey ...	1263	4384	4876	89.90%
Cringleford ...	317	1040	1050	99.00%
Framingham Earl ...	36	127	209	67.65%
Hackford ...	4	16	195	8.20%
Hingham ...	365	1277	1440	88.68%
Poringland ...	227	763	1025	74.43%
Stoke Holy Cross ...	38	132	597	22.10%
Trowse Newton ...	175	574	592	96.96%
Wicklewood ...	66	230	770	29.86%
Estimated population of the district ...				22,970
Estimated population of parishes served by				
Mains Water Supply ...				10,957
Estimated population supplied ...				8,547

Having regard to the above statistics, whilst 78.004% of the population of the 10 parishes served by a mains water supply has a supply from the mains, the proportion of the total population of the district which have a mains supply is only 37.21%.

In addition to these, piped water supplies are available to 56 hutments at Ketteringham from a private headworks, 126 converted hutments at Hethel Aerodrome from the Air Ministry's borehole on this site, and 218 Council Houses from individual boreholes with automatic pressure sets on the sites.

The policy of providing a piped water supply from individual pressure sets has much to commend it as an interim method until the District Scheme is carried out and in many isolated spots in the district the occupiers of Council owned and other dwellings are able to enjoy amenities which would otherwise be denied

them. It should, however, be borne in mind that the provision of these amenities by such methods is only done at great expense and calls for continuous maintenance costs.

Mains water for Bixley, Caistor St. Edmunds, Costessey, Cringleford, Framingham Earl, Poringland, Stoke Holy Cross and Trowse Newton is derived from the Norwich Corporation supply, and that for Hackford, Hingham and Wicklewood is obtained from the water-works of the Wymondham U.D.C. The water in both cases is of good quality and purity and is not likely to exert plumbo-solvent action.

Those dwellings in the district which do not have a piped supply, depend mainly on private wells which are mostly shallow. There was no improvement during the year in the level of the underground water upon which these wells depend.

38 samples of water were taken for analysis, 32 samples proved fit for drinking purposes and 6 unfit, and appropriate action was taken.

Emergency Water Scheme.

Throughout the year the Emergency Scheme for the supply of water to dwellings whose normal supply had failed was continued. The Scheme, started in 1947 in a very small way with a tank on a lorry and amounting to a few hundred gallons per week, developed into a major operation and still amounts to a full time occupation for one man and a 1,000 gallon tanker. The average deliveries per week were 22,000 gallons and covered over 400 dwellings. The average cost amounted to £25 per week. The Council decided to make no charge to domestic users but to charge 2/6d. per 100 gallons for business purposes.

Sewerage.

It has not been possible to proceed further with the Sewerage Schemes already on paper, although it is likely that the Hingham Sewerage Scheme, being first priority, will commence in the near future.

An urgent need has arisen for a Sewerage Scheme to serve that part of Costessey which includes Richmond Road Estate, the Council's new Housing Site and the Norfolk Education Committee's new School Site. A Scheme has been prepared by the Council's

Consulting Engineers and it is likely that, if Ministry approval is given, it will be the first post-war Sewerage Scheme in the District.

At Trowse Newton conversions from E.C's to W.C's and connections to the sewer have proceeded steadily and very soon it is likely that all houses in the parish within reach of the sewer will be connected.

The need for a Sewerage Scheme in Poringland has been intensified by the Council's intention to develop land in East Poringland for housing purposes. The Consulting Engineers are at present engaged in formulating a scheme to meet this need.

During the year it was necessary thoroughly to clean out the Saxlingham Sewer Ditch (Watercourse) and this annual expenditure gave rise to comment and enquiry regarding a permanent remedy, but once again, as in the past 25 years or more, a small sewerage scheme was postponed mainly on the grounds of high cost in relation to the small area to be served.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

During the year it was possible to extend the Refuse Collection services so as to cover practically all the district and with the exception of Holverston and properties in isolated positions, regular collections are made. Weekly collections are made in Costessey, Cringleford, Hingham and Trowse Newton and fortnightly collections in the remainder of the District. Special arrangements are made for collections at Wymondham and Keswick Colleges.

The extension of the scheme has increased considerably the amount of refuse to be disposed of and the controlled tip at Ketteringham will not be capable of receiving refuse for as long a period as was at first thought. Arrangements are under consideration for the acquisition of an additional pit at Hackford to serve the western part of the District. Such an arrangement would be beneficial for Hingham and district. It is also hoped that temporary arrangements will be made for Costessey by the use of a pit in that parish.

Salvage.

The Salvage Collection Scheme shewed no improvement over last year owing to the public apathy which developed following the virtual suspension of salvage collection at a time when it was found impossible to dispose of waste paper. There are signs that the collection of waste paper will become very urgent again and a scheme is being formulated to boost collections in the District.

Scavenging.

A Night Soil Collection Scheme is operating in the parishes of Old Costessey, Hethersett, Hingham and Trowse Newton and to Council properties in Mulbarton and Poringland. This has worked smoothly during the year and no serious complaints or difficulties have arisen.

Cesspool Emptying Scheme.

This Scheme has been operating throughout the year at full pressure and heavy demands continue to be made upon this service. It is obvious that two vehicles cannot continue very much longer satisfactorily to operate both night soil and cesspool emptying schemes, and unless it is possible to convert the water tanker, a new vehicle will be a necessity. Disposal of cesspool contents is either by discharge on to farm land or discharge into sewers. Night soil is disposed of by controlled dumping for manurial purposes.

The following Table gives details of the Cesspool Emptying Scheme operated throughout the year:—

1.	Total Number of properties visited	...	1,262
	(a) Private	...	598
	(b) Council	...	521
	(c) Outside own District		143
2.	Total Number of loads	...	3,962
	(a) Private	...	1,091
	(b) Council	...	2,550
	(c) Outside own District		321

HOUSING.

There has been no change in the Council's policy not to carry out the Rural Housing Survey and only isolated cases have been dealt with under Slum Clearance.

Two Demolition Orders were made during the year and 322 Inspections under the Housing Acts were carried out and in most cases the need for repairs was dealt with by informal action. Where difficulty was experienced Notices were served as follows:—

	Preliminary	Statutory
Public Health Act, 1936	2	4
Housing Act, 1936	2	—

At the end of the year 81 dwellings, the subject of operative Demolition or Clearance Orders, were still occupied by the original tenants or under licence by Section 155 of the Housing Act, 1936 (Defence Regulation), or by unauthorised occupation. This state of affairs seems to be inevitable whilst the present housing shortage continues.

The HOUSING ACT, 1949, SECTION 20 provides means by which properties can be modernised with the help of Government Grants. Whilst it is not the Government's intention that Section 20 of the Act should provide a means for reconditioning sub-standard dwellings, but rather to add amenities to dwellings of sound construction and in reasonably good repair, the financial limits and conditions of approval relating to ordinary repairs rule out many cases which, it is felt, should be eligible for grant.

If the Act is to make any noticeable contribution towards the improvement of housing standards, its administration must be simplified and certain amendments made in relation to financial limits and conditions of approval. This latter remark does not refer to compliance with the housing standard laid down, which is necessary in all respects.

At the end of the year the position in relation to applications was as follows:—

No. of appl'ns. received.	No. Granted.	No. Refused.	No. Withdrawn.	No. Pending.
13	4	5	1	3

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The problem of moveable dwellings control has been aggravated during the year as many people, unable to provide themselves with a house, have purchased land for the purpose of living thereon in caravans.

At the present time 13 licences are in force in the district for the use of sites for moveable dwellings. 3 applications were refused. Again the need for a controlled site cannot be emphasised too strongly to serve applicants of temporary duration and those unable to obtain housing accommodation and who are not prepared to build. Where applicants own sites on which they intend to build, under suitable conditions, it appears reasonable to grant short term licences.

INFECTIONS DISINFECTIONS AND DISINFESTATIONS.

Investigations were carried out in 30 cases of infectious disease notified during the year and in 13 cases the premises were disinfected. Where patients were nursed at home disinfectants were supplied and advice given to prevent the spread of infection.

Six premises were disinfested against insect pests.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

Arrangements with the Norfolk Agricultural Executive Committee for the use of their pest control staff for rodent destruction continued during the year and 68 complaints were dealt with.

Where fairly widespread complaint in a parish was received block treatment was carried out and this took place in Easton and at Ketteringham Camp.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 came into operation during the year. This Act requires Local Authorities to set up their own rodent control organisation and the arrangements which had so far been operating would not be allowed to continue.

A series of consultations with other Local Authorities in the County were held to ascertain the best method of administering the provisions of the new Act and it was felt that Local Authorities might form joint Committees with rodent control staff to cover two or more districts. This proposition did not however gain much support and the Council is now faced with the prospect of engaging its own rodent control operators and administering the Act with its existing Public Health Staff.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The following licences have been issued by the Council during the year.

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations, 1949.

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" ...	1
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" ...	1
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	1

The Norfolk County Council instituted a milk sampling programme which includes examination of the milk both for tubercular infection and for infection by bacillus brucella abortus.

During the year 1 positive tubercular sample was found and 5 positive brucella abortus found. In each case the milk was diverted for pasteurisation under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, until the infected animal or animals could be discovered and segregated from the herd.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The Abattoir at Swardeston has remained under the control of the Ministry of Food and slaughtering has taken place on six, and in many cases, seven days a week. An Inspector was in attendance on every day that slaughtering took place and all the animals killed were examined. It can be said that the working of the slaughterhouse has been carried on satisfactorily during the year.

It is interesting to note that the number of cows slaughtered was 41.5% less than in the previous year, whilst the number of "clean" cattle increased by 51.5%.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year:—

Bulls.	Cows.	Bullocks.	Heifers.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pork Pigs.	Sows and Boars.
81	718	1,319	1,200	1,816	6,692	1,551	789

A total of 14,166 animals

Upon inspection the following meat was condemned as unfit for human consumption and was converted into inedible products under the Ministry's Scheme for dealing with unsound meat:—

BEEF.

		WEIGHT			
		Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
23 Cows (Tuberculosis)	...	5	18	2	4
1 Cow (Septic Pericarditis)			5	1	15
1 Cow (Septicaemia)	...		5	0	2
1 Cow (Injury and Bruising)			5	0	2
1 Cow (Odoematous)	...		5	1	5
1 Cow (Septic Metritis)	...		5	2	24
1 Cow (Pyæmia)	...		3	3	10
10 Bullocks (Tuberculosis)	...	2	18	1	17
1 Bullock (Dropsical)	...		5	1	12
1 Bullock (Septic Peritonitis)			5	1	12
1 Bullock (Moribund)	...		7	0	15
11 Heifers (Tuberculosis)	...	2	10	2	26
1 Heifer (Moribund)	...		6	0	10
1 Heifer (Septic Pericarditis)			2	2	1

MUTTON.

4 Sheep (Moribund)	...	2	1	15
2 Sheep (Abscess)	...	1	2	13
1 Sheep (Multiple Abscesses)			1	27
3 Sheep (Pathologcl. Emaciatn.)		1	2	20
4 Sheep (Emaciation)	...	1	3	4
1 Sheep (Septic Pericarditis)			1	1
1 Sheep (Gangrene and Injury)			1	2
1 Sheep (Septic Pleurisy)	...		1	27
1 Sheep (Cadaverous)	...		1	27
1 Sheep (Pyæmia)	...		1	27

VEAL.

4 Calves (Tuberculosis)	...	2	3	24
2 Calves (Moribund)	...	1	0	8
4 Calves (Umbilical Pyæmia)		2	0	14
1 Calf (Septic Pericarditis)	...		1	22
1 Calf (Haemorrhage)	...		2	7

PORK.

8 Sows (Tuberculosis)	...	1	4	0	13
1 Sow (Erysipelas)	...		1	1	10
1 Sow (Septicaemia)	...		3	2	18
2 Sows (Multiple Abscesses)			6	1	0
1 Sow (Septic Pleurisy and Pericarditis)	...		2	0	25

PORK—*continued.*

	Tons.	WEIGHT		Lbs.
		Cwts.	Qrs.	
1 Sow (Fevered) ...		2	0	24
1 Sow (Septic Pleurisy) ...		2	2	17
1 Sow (Septic Peritonitis) ...		2	2	17
12 Pigs (Tuberculosis) ...		16	3	18
1 Pig (Moribund) ...		1	1	10
1 Pig (Fevered) ...		1	1	10
3 Pigs (Erysipelas) ...		4	0	26
2 Pigs (Septicaemia) ...		2	2	20
2 Pigs (Septic Pericarditis) ...		2	3	17
1 Pig (Abscesses) ...			3	0
2 Pigs (Cadaverous) ...		2	3	15
Parts of Carcases and organs condemned for various diseases ...	17	16	6	20
Total weight condemned ...	36	15	3	9

Percentage of animals condemned for Tuberculosis:—

Bulls	Cows	Bullocks	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Sows and Boars
0%	3.20%	0.76%	0.91%	0.22%	0%	0.77%	1.01%

Percentage of animals condemned for all diseases:—

Bulls	Cows	Bullocks	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Sows and Boars
0%	4.04%	0.98%	1.08%	0.66%	0.28%	1.55%	2.03%

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.**Ice Cream.**

One Ice Cream Factory was registered by the Council under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and the premises have been regularly inspected. Registration has been granted to 8 retail shops authorising the sale of ice cream. The premises, methods of production and standard of cleanliness were satisfactorily maintained during the year. Ice Cream vendors' vehicles have been inspected as occasion allowed to ensure the proper observations of the relative provisions of the Food and Drugs Act. The two samples taken were satisfactory and scheduled in the category Grade I.

Knackers Yard.

The premises registered as a Knackers Yard have been the subject of frequent inspection during the year. The difficulties which had arisen with regard to drainage became aggravated during the year and serious nuisance was caused by the discharge of processing effluents into the ditches adjoining the property. No attempt was made to abate the nuisance following the service of a Statutory Notice upon the owners and the Council was therefore forced to institute Summary Proceedings to secure abatement. The Justices made an Order for the removal of the nuisance and the premises are being kept under observation to ensure that the provisions of this Order are properly observed.

NEW BUILDINGS.

The following new dwellings were approved under Building Bye-laws and/or Town Planning:—

By the Local Authority:

Parish		Houses	Bungalows
Bawburgh	...	6	6
Easton	...	6	6
Mulbarton	...	4	6
Saxlingham	...	4	2

By Private Enterprise:

Barford	...	1	—
Barnham Broom	...	—	1
Braconash	...	1	—
Bramerton	...	—	1
Caistor St. Edmunds	...	2	1
Costessey	...	4	6
Cringleford	...	4	3
Flordon	...	1	—
Framingham Earl	...	1	—
Hethersett	...	3	6
Ketteringham	...	2	—
Newton Flotman	...	1	—
Shotesham	...	2	—
Stoke Holy Cross	...	2	1
Swardeston	...	1	1
Wicklewood	...	1	1
Wreningham	...	—	1

26

22

The following conversions and adaptations were approved:—

By the Local Authority:

Hethel

Hutments
44

By Private Enterprise:

Parish	Houses	Bungalows	Hutments
Costessey	—	2	—
Hingham	—	1	—
Poringland	—	1	—
Shotesham	—	3	—
Swardeston	—	1	—
Wicklewood	—	1	—
	—	9	—

During the year the following new dwellings were completed:—

By the Local Authority:

Parish	Houses	Bungalows	Hutments
Braconash	4	—	—
Caistor St. Edmunds	6	—	—
Colton	6	—	—
Deopham	—	2	—
East Carleton	2	—	—
Flordon	4	—	—
Great Melton	4	2	—
Hethel	—	—	30
Hingham	6	—	—
Keswick	6	—	—
Poringland	14	—	—
Rockland St. Mary	—	8	—
Runhall	6	—	—
Saxlingham	4	—	—
Shotesham	10	2	—
Stoke Holy Cross	8	4	—
Swainsthorpe	4	—	—
Swardeston	4	—	—
Trowse Newton	6	—	—
Wrampingham	4	—	—
	98	18	30

By Private Enterprise:

Parish	Houses	Bungalows	Hutments
Barford	—	1	—
Costessey	1	5	—
Colton	2	—	—
Cringleford	—	2	—
Easton	—	1	—
Hethersett	2	2	—
Marlingford	1	—	—
Mulbarton	—	1	—
Newton Flotman	1	—	—
Rockland St. Mary	—	1	—
Saxlingham	—	1	—
Stoke Holy Cross	—	1	—
	7	15	—

BUILDING LICENSING.**Repairs, Improvements and Conversions**

No. of applications	78	
No. of licences granted	63	amounting to £24,398
No. of applications refused	2	
Council's Yearly Quota		£25,284

Licences issued by Ministry of Works	46	£55,428
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New Dwelling Licences

	Houses	Bungalows	Total
No. on Register at 31st December, 1950	32	38	70
New dwelling licences granted	2	10	12
Licences approved but awaiting issue at 31-12-50	4	6	10
Licences issued to Norwich applicants (Transfer licences)	1	5	6

Court Proceedings — 1

The restrictions on repairs and new buildings remained at the same level during the year with all works of more than £100 in value requiring to be licensed by the Local Authority on behalf of the Ministry of Works.

The ceiling figure for the District was fixed at £2,107 per month and it was only possible to keep within this limit by the granting of the larger licences by instalments.

The Quota of licences allowed by the Ministry for the erection of new dwellings by private enterprise was 12. In addition, the Ministry gave permission for Local Authorities to transfer licences to other areas in cases where applicants resided outside the district in which they wished to build. In view of the number of applications from Norwich residents, that Authority granted 6 licences for transfer to this district.

During the year the free limit on "Designated" buildings, which includes farm buildings and business premises, was reduced from £1,000 to £500.

In a number of cases, where no hope can be given for the early issue of a licence, applicants have commenced the erection of dwellings for their own occupation within the yearly £100 free limit, and at the end of the year 12 persons were so doing. With reference to the case reported in 1949 where the free limit had been greatly exceeded in the erection of a bungalow, the Council was compelled to institute proceedings in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, which resulted in a conviction and fine of £50.

General.

The details given in the preceding paragraphs show that the work of the public health department has continued on normal lines and it is to be regretted that something of a more startling nature cannot be recorded in relation to housing, water and sewerage schemes. Schemes and progress under these three headings remain almost stationary owing to present day shortages of vital materials and labour and also the continued rapid rise in costs. One wonders whether these causes will ever allow the present generation to see the culmination of its efforts. It is, however, pleasing to record that at last it has been possible to provide a refuse collection scheme to cover all the main centres of population in the area.

The work of a public health department, especially in a rural area, includes many and varied duties and it is surprising how few of the general public realise the very wide field of work for which a Public Health Officer is responsible.

It is to be hoped that within the next few years nothing will occur to hinder further progress, and that it will be possible to report greater progress in housing, water and sewerage schemes.

I should, once again, like to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to all members of the Public Health Department Staff, for their ready support during the year and, in conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, to express my appreciation of the considerate manner in which the Council has received our efforts.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

G. A. J. BROWNE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Senior Sanitary Inspector and
Building Surveyor.

Council Offices,
12 The Close, Norwich.

August, 1951.

